

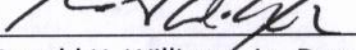


To the Honorable Council  
City of Norfolk, Virginia

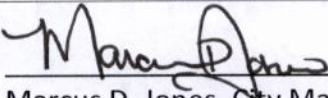
July 14, 2015

From: George M. Homewood, AICP CFM,  
Planning Director

**Subject:** A Resolution requesting  
Hampton Roads Transit to initiate  
formal environmental impact studies  
for specific options to extend light  
rail transit to Naval Station Norfolk

Reviewed:   
Ronald H. Williams, Jr., Deputy City Manager

**Ward/Superward:** Citywide

Approved:   
Marcus D. Jones, City Manager

**Item Number:**

**R-4**

I. **Recommendation:** Adopt Resolution

II. **Applicant:** City of Norfolk

III. **Description:**

This agenda item is a resolution requesting Hampton Roads Transit to initiate formal environmental impact studies for specific options to extend light rail transit to Naval Station Norfolk.

IV. **Analysis**

- Norfolk City Council in October, 2012, requested Hampton Roads Transit ("HRT") to undertake preliminary studies of options to extend the initial TIDE light rail transit starter line to Naval Station Norfolk to help address the severe congestion and delays at and along the approaches to this facility which is the largest employment center in the Hampton Roads region.
- The City of Norfolk and HRT have now completed these preliminary corridor analyses which identified and reviewed multiple potential options across all parts of the City to link the existing TIDE alignment to Naval Station Norfolk.
- Both the extensive public outreach process during the corridor study process as well as the detailed technical review of potential transit alignments identified the eastern and western options as best meeting the defined project purpose and need for potential transit service extensions to Naval Station Norfolk.
- Additional formal and detailed studies under the guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are now needed to further define both the eastern and western potential transit corridor options linking to Naval Station Norfolk including formal determination of the exact connection points to the TIDE, service characteristics,

detailed benefits and impacts, and circulation options within the secured gate areas of Naval Station Norfolk.

- State grant funds in excess of seven million dollars have recently been identified to support the needed next phases of detailed environmental review and analysis under the federal process for the Naval Station Norfolk Transit Extension Study.
- It is estimated that it will take 30-36 months to complete the new environmental studies for the proposed transit extension to Naval Station Norfolk.

**V. Financial Impact**

- Approximately \$7.4M in State funding has been allocated in support of this effort.
- The City of Norfolk will contribute 4% (\$300,000) in matching funds over three fiscal years.

**VI. Environmental**

The proposed Environmental Impact Statement study process will review and document the primary costs, benefits and impacts of the various study options to help support the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative to extend high capacity transit service to the Naval Station Norfolk.

**VII. Community Outreach/Notification**

Public notification for this agenda item was conducted through the City of Norfolk's agenda notification process.

**VIII. Board/Commission Action**

The Norfolk City Planning Commission has endorsed the selection of the east and west corridors being recommended for further detailed analysis.

**IX. Coordination/Outreach**

This letter and resolution have been coordinated with the Departments of Planning and Community Development, Public Works, Development, Utilities, Recreation, Parks and Open Space and the City Attorney's Office.

Form and Correctness Approval

By

Office of the City Attorney

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Contents Approved:

By

DEPT.

## Resolution

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING HAMPTON ROADS  
TRANSIT TO INITIATE FORMAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES FOR  
SPECIFIC OPTIONS TO EXTEND LIGHT RAIL  
TRANSIT IN NORFOLK TO NAVAL STATION  
NORFOLK

WHEREAS, the TIDE light rail system began operations in Norfolk in August 2011 with ridership totals exceeding initial projections and with support for light rail transit as part of a balanced approach to addressing transportation needs in Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region; and

WHEREAS, the initial TIDE alignment between Newtown Road and the Eastern Virginia Medical Center was planned and designed as a starter alignment that would expand over time to serve other destinations in the region; and

WHEREAS, the severe congestion and delays along the approaches to Naval Station Norfolk, the largest employment center in the Hampton Roads region, impacts essential national defense readiness and operations as well as all users of the surrounding highway network; and

WHEREAS, extending light rail to Naval Station Norfolk would help address existing and future transportation challenges in the region and could potentially serve many other educational, commercial and transportation centers in Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norfolk and Hampton Roads Transit have recently completed preliminary corridor studies which identified multiple options to link the existing TIDE alignment to Naval Station Norfolk with high capacity transit service; and

WHEREAS, the extensive public outreach process during the corridor study process and the detailed technical review of potential transit alignments identified the eastern and western transit corridor options ("Options") as best to potentially meet the defined project purpose and need for transit service extensions to Naval Station Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, additional detailed studies are now needed to further define the Options, including formal determination of the exact connection points to the TIDE, service characteristics, detailed benefits and impacts, and circulation options within the secured gate areas of Naval Station Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, State grant funds in excess of seven million dollars have been identified to support the needed next phases of detailed environmental review and analysis under the federal process for the Naval Station Norfolk Transit Extension Study; and,

WHEREAS, the Norfolk City Planning Commission has recently voted to support both light rail transit to Naval Station Norfolk in the eastern corridor together with additional high capacity transit improvements in the western corridor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1:- That Hampton Roads Transit is hereby requested to initiate and advance formal environmental impact studies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate both the eastern and western options for the possible extension of light rail transit to Naval Station Norfolk on the fastest possible time schedule.

Section 2:- That this resolution shall be in effect from and after its adoption.